



# The President's Daily Brief

6 November 1973

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Syrian front remained calm yesterday, but Israel claims four Egyptian cease-fire violations in the Sinai, with fighting continuing for six hours. Israeli concern over further Egyptian attacks seems justified by substantial Egyptian troop movements. (Page 1)

Israeli Foreign Minister Eban's three-day visit to Romania, at Bucharest's invitation, will add new strains to already taut relations between Moscow and Bucharest but is unlikely to advance movement toward a peace settlement. (Page 3)

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Notes on South Vietnam, [ ] USSR [ ]  
[ ] and Greece appear on Page 4.

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## ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

The Syrian front remained calm yesterday, but Israel claims that Egyptian forces in the Sinai violated the cease-fire four times. A small clash occurred between a Third Army patrol and Israeli forces in the southern sector, and the Egyptians conducted three attacks in the northern Sinai--the first there since the cease-fire. The fighting there included Egyptian tank and infantry attacks which lasted for six hours before the Egyptians reportedly were stopped. Israeli spokesmen state that the Egyptians still hold some of the ground taken during the fighting.

Israeli concern about the possibility of further Egyptian attacks seems justified. A senior UN observer reported that 15,000 to 20,000 Egyptian troops have moved from the Cairo area toward Ismailia and the northern Suez Canal in the past few days. He does not know how many Egyptian troops may have crossed to the east bank. Another UN observer reported having seen on November 1 three or four Egyptian convoys, each three to six miles long, headed toward Ismailia from Cairo.

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Egyptian Presidential Adviser Zayyat has told the French, according to the US Embassy in Paris, that Egypt will insist on a phased approach to negotiations that would initially require Israeli withdrawal to the cease-fire lines of October 22 and ultimately to the 1967 lines. Zayyat reportedly rejected direct negotiations and said Egypt would refuse exclusive Soviet-US auspices for negotiations. Foreign Minister Fahmi recently touched on some of the same points with UN Secretary-General Waldheim. He also insisted that Egypt will make no concessions

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on the prisoner issue until Israel has withdrawn to cease-fire lines of October 22 and stated that a peace conference should be held only under UN auspices. He did not specifically reject direct negotiations and did not tie the start of a peace conference to Israel's withdrawal to the October 22 lines.

Libyan President Qadhafi and Algerian President Boumediene are on separate whirlwind tours of Middle East capitals, and other Arab leaders are about to make similar trips. [REDACTED]

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In what were presumably exchanges of views on strategy, Qadhafi and Boumediene probably pressed for a hard line. They may also have lobbied for an Arab summit conference to be held in Cairo or Algiers within the next week.

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## ROMANIA-ISRAEL-USSR

Israeli Foreign Minister Eban's three-day visit to Romania, at Bucharest's invitation, for "urgent talks" will add new strains to already taut relations between Moscow and Bucharest. Throughout the current Middle East crisis, Romania has resisted Soviet, Arab, and Yugoslav pressures to abandon its "balanced foreign policy" and break relations with Israel. More recently Bucharest has collided with Moscow over possible Romanian participation in a UN Middle East peace-keeping force. According to Foreign Minister Macovescu, the Soviets specifically told Bucharest to stay out of peace-keeping activities, and the Security Council's agreement of November 2 on the make-up of the UNEF excludes Romania.

The Eban visit appears to be another move by Romania to maintain a high profile as a peacemaker in the Middle East. Last month Bucharest proposed a peace plan that called for a cease-fire in place without emphasizing UN Resolution 242.

Eban has acknowledged that his government accepted Romania's invitation partly as a gesture of appreciation for Bucharest's policy of standing up to the Soviets. It is unlikely that he will be receptive to urgings that Israel be more flexible about a peace settlement, possibly along the lines of Romania's proposal in October.

Although the Romanian invitation had asserted that senior Arab officials would also come to Bucharest, there is no evidence that any Arab state has responded to Bucharest's invitation.

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## NOTES

South Vietnam: Bien Hoa airbase in South Vietnam was struck on November 6 by 22 122-mm rockets which destroyed three stored F-5 aircraft and a gasoline storage area. Several rockets also hit the headquarters of Military Region 3 and a ranger field command post. Casualties and damage were light. These are the heaviest shellings close to Saigon since the cease-fire.

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Greece: Sunday's violent demonstrations in Athens in connection with a memorial service honoring former prime minister George Papandreou may have delivered a setback to Prime Minister Markezinis. The latter has recently been trying to assure free and open elections by encouraging the leftists to participate. This maneuver had the full backing of President Papadopoulos, but some senior military officers had expressed a certain degree of concern. The leftists played a leading part in the demonstrations on Sunday, a circumstance that will provide ammunition for Markezinis' critics among the military.

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